

Land Use Committee

Municipal Immigrant Integration Toolkit

October 15, 2014



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning



Toolkit Proposal

The **Metropolitan Mayors Caucus**, in partnership with the **Latino Policy Forum**, submitted a proposal for CMAP technical assistance to create a **“toolkit” or “how to” guide to help municipalities better integrate immigrants into the civic life of their communities.**



Partners and Roles

CMAP. Project management, development, research and analysis.

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Provide guidance from municipalities and steering committee.

Latino Policy Forum. Technical advisor and assistance with implementation and training.



Background

The toolkit builds off the 2012 Immigrant Integration guidebook created by MMC's Diversity Issues Task Force.

- Overview of Immigrants in Metro Chicago
- Immigrant Integration Survey Results
- Profiles of Municipalities
- Profile of Organizations



Steering Committee

To assist in guiding the development of this toolkit, the MMC's Diversity Issues Task Force served as the project's steering committee.



Expert Input

Role: To guide, inform, and enhance the toolkit planning process as well as provide input on key deliverables.

Experts

- University of Chicago School of Social Services Administration
- Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs
- Mano a Mano Family Resource Center
- The DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform
- Latino Policy Forum
- Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
- Illinois Welcoming Center, Department of Human Services
- HIAS Chicago
- Chicago Community Trust
- City of Chicago's Office of New Americans
- Open Communities



Immigrant Integration

A dynamic, two-way process in which newcomers and the local municipalities share a mutual responsibility for integration.

CMAP and MMC conceptualized **successful immigrant integration** in the following ways:

- Improved immigrant health, well-being, and economic mobility.
- Enhanced civic participation.
- A culture of inclusiveness.



Integration Challenges

Lack of financial resources and staff capacity are primary constraints to providing services and programming for immigrants and their families.

Challenges from a newcomer's perspective:

- Lack of understanding of local government.
- Inability to navigate local school systems.
- Inability to adhere to local laws and ordinances.



Integration Benefits

Immigrants and their children make significant contributions to our region –as workers, taxpayers, consumers, and entrepreneurs.

Benefits of Immigrant Integration:

- Ensure Economic vitality of our region.
- Overall safety, health, and well-being of communities.
- Address programs under funding pressures
- Opportunity to leverage resources.
- Find alternatives that might not otherwise be tapped by local government.



About Toolkit

This toolkit serves as a tool to assist municipalities who want to:

- Address changing demographics at the local level.
- Foster a better relationship with local immigrant populations.
- Take a proactive approach to incorporating immigrants into the civic and social fabric of the community.
- Presents a variety of options for immigrant integration.
- Ensure the economic vitality of our region.



Draft Toolkit Outline

The toolkit covers the following elements:

- Executive Summary
- Self-Assessment Checklist
- Demographics Chapter
- 7 theme chapters:
 - Civic Engagement
 - Public Safety
 - Health Services



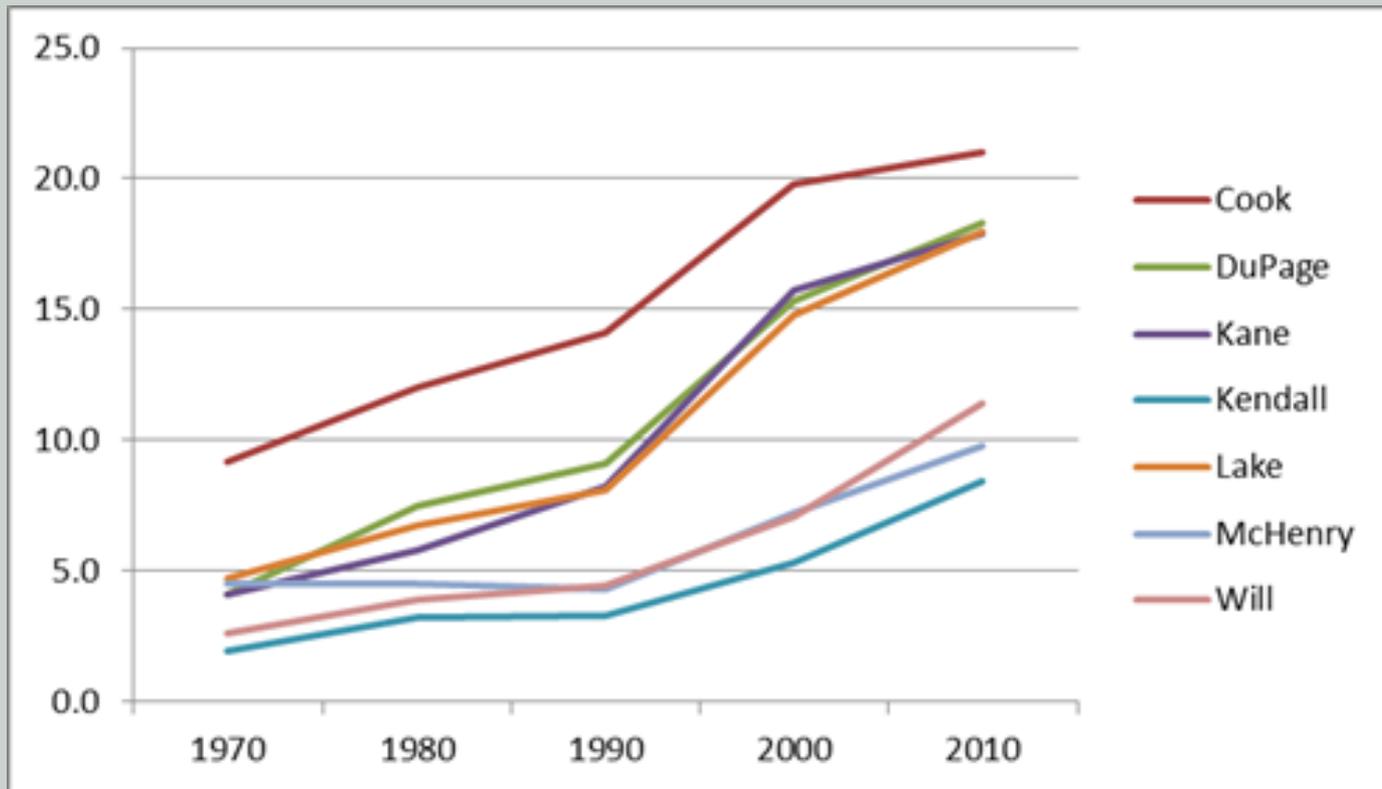
Draft Toolkit Outline cont.

- Theme chapters
 - Workforce and Economic Development
 - Language Access
 - Education
 - Housing
- Appendix
 - Additional resources
 - Immigrant Population in Chicago Area Municipalities

Demographics



Foreign-born persons as a percent of total population from 1970 to 2010, by County

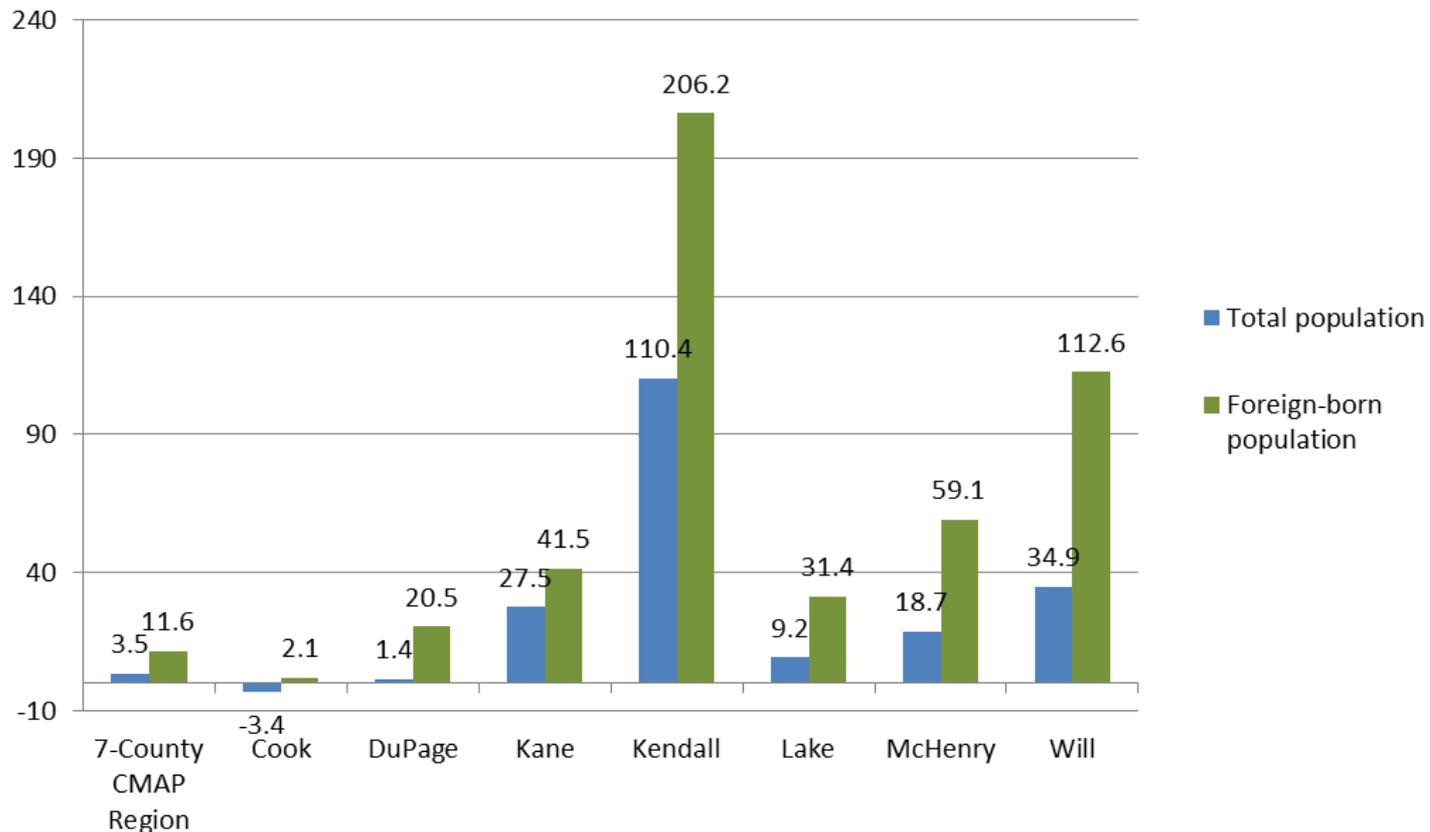


Source: U.S. Census 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010.



Demographics

% change of total population and foreign-born population, 2000-10



Source: U.S. Census 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010.



Demographics

Population including foreign-born persons as a percent of total population and foreign-born naturalized citizens.

	Total population	Total foreign born	Percent foreign born	Percent foreign-born who are naturalized citizens
United States	309,138,711	39,784,305	12.9	44.3
Illinois	12,823,860	1,768,305	13.8	45.4
7-County Chicago Region	8,432,516	1,606,470	19.1	45.9
Cook	5,197,677	1,099,425	21.2	45.5
DuPage	918,608	167,467	18.2	53.0
Kane	514,891	92,569	18.0	34.3
Kendall	114,226	10,228	9.0	57.4
Lake	701,282	128,065	18.3	45.4
McHenry	308,163	29,176	9.5	46.4
Will	677,669	79,540	11.7	49.5

Source: American Community Survey 2008-2012..

Demographics



Top 5 countries of origin of foreign-born in the 7-county CMAP region.

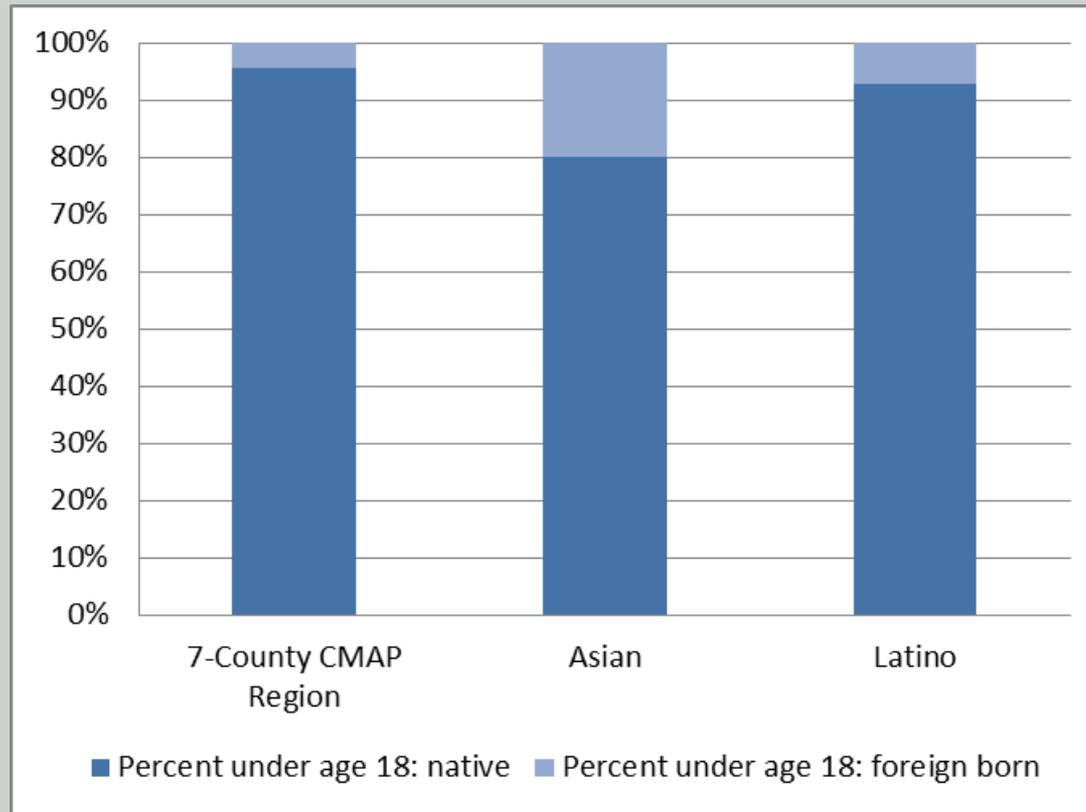
Rank	place of origin	Count	Percent foreign born
1	Mexico	649,282	40.4
2	Poland	138,593	8.6
3	India	114,971	7.2
4	Philippines	76,790	4.8
5	China	48,832	3.0

Source: American Community Survey 2008-2012.



Demographics

Seven-county CMAP region: Percent Asian and Latino population who are native vs. foreign-born.



Source: American Community Survey 2008-2012.



Demographics

There are **ten municipalities** that rank in the top 25 municipalities in the region, both in terms of number and percent of immigrants.

These communities are:

- Addison
- Cicero
- Glendale Heights
- Hanover Park
- Melrose Park
- Mount Prospect
- Niles
- Skokie
- Waukegan
- Wheeling



Civic Engagement

Civic engagement is a fundamental component of immigrant integration. Lack of immigrant representation could lead to many challenges.

Common Challenges:

- Low participation in municipal government, boards, and commissions by immigrant groups and leaders.
- Mistrust of government.
- Municipalities may have multiple or diverse immigrant groups.



Civic Engagement

This chapter focuses on concrete ways that municipalities can better engage and involve immigrants in their communities.

Example strategy to increase **Civic Engagement**:

- Assist immigrants in understanding local government better.

Spotlight: The City of Evanston, in partnership with School District 65, coordinates a **Parent Leadership Institute** program in Spanish to enrich parents' knowledge and understanding of their community and local government.



Public Safety

Services and protections must apply to all community members –regardless of cultural, economic, or social differences.

Common Challenges:

- Communication and trust.
- Unfamiliar of driver's licenses, identification, and insurance.
- Municipal participation in Secure Communities and 287(g).
- Immigrant services fraud.



Public Safety

Providing public safety services to immigrants will help municipalities better serve their entire population.

Example strategy to improve **Public Safety**:

- Provide information in the language your community needs.

Spotlight: Bilingual Community Alerts

The Village of Bensenville has a Code Red Emergency Notification System, through which residents and businesses receive mass alerts regarding emergencies or disasters situations. Listeners have the options to dial 9 to hear the Spanish version.



Health Services

Cultural, language, educational, and financial barriers can all play a role in marginalizing access to health services.

Common Challenges:

- Low rates of health insurance coverage.
- Lack of access to preventive care.
- Lagging health outcomes.
- Similar to every demographic, immigrants also have a growing aging population.



Health Services

This Chapter offers recommendations for how municipalities can leverage resources and improve immigrant access to health services.

Example strategy for improving **Health Services**:

- Share information about health programs and resources.

Spotlight: The Village of Schaumburg distributes a **Cultural Sensitivity Manual**, borrowed from the local St. Alexius Medical Center, which contains information about the cultural, national, ethnic, and religious groups in the community.



Workforce & Economic Development

Economic development in the Chicago region is strongly linked with the occupational success of immigrants and their children.

Common Challenges:

- Limited English proficiency, vocational, and education.
- Transferability of previous training, education, and work experience.
- Accessibility of job training and placement programs.
- Difficulty advancing beyond low-wage jobs.
- Financial services utilization.



Workforce & Economic Development

Promoting immigrant entrepreneurship can advance the interests of all communities.

Example strategy to increase **Workforce & Economic Development:**

- Help local entrepreneurs seeking to start a business.

Spotlight: Accion Chicago is an alternative lending organization dedicated to providing credit and other business services to small business owners who do not have access to traditional sources of financing.



Language Access

For many municipalities, achieving successful language access is one of the biggest challenges of immigrant integration.

Common Challenges:

- Public safety challenges.
- Civic and community engagement challenges.
- Economic growth challenges.
- Shortage of bilingual and bicultural service providers.



Language Access

This chapter provides short- and long-term strategies to maximize limited resources and to help ensure quality of language assistance.

Example strategy to address **Language Access**:

- Share resources across departments.

Spotlight: Carol Stream

The Village of Carol Stream keeps a list of all bilingual personnel that is distributed to all municipal departments, enabling easy sharing of resources.



Education

Many immigrants come to the United States in search of a better life –including better educational opportunities for their children.

Common Challenges:

- Many children live in “mixed-status” families with limited access to support.
- Need for youth programming.
- Many immigrants have limited English skills.
- Children of immigrants are more likely to live in low-income and less educated households.
- Immigrant families’ strengths can erode over time.



Education

While it is school districts, not municipalities, who are responsible for education, municipalities can benefit from a well-educated resident base.

Example strategy to support **Educational Attainment**:

- Encourage parental participation in school and after-school activities.

Spotlight: The **Niles Township Schools' ELL Parent Center** serves as a resource for immigrant parents to support them in advocating for their children's academic achievement.



Housing

Housing instability has negative impacts on an individual and household's life, particularly employment and education.

Common Challenges:

- Limited supply of diverse housing stock.
- Discriminatory consequences of housing policy and regulations
- Miscommunication and cultural differences.



Housing

By addressing housing challenges, municipalities can improve quality of life, increase neighborhood stability, and promote economic growth.

Example strategy to address **Housing**:

- Require property inspections prior to home sales or apartment rentals.

Spotlight: The Village of Mount Prospect has systematized the inspection process and established a **landlord-tenant ordinance** that ensures all parties are prepared to participate in the code enforcement process.

Thank you!

Questions/Comments?

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